

EDITION POST 11 25

DATE 11 25 1988

NEW YORK TIMES _____
 WALL STREET J. _____
 WASHINGTON TIMES _____
 USA TODAY _____

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North, South Koreans Meet For First Time Since Games

By Peter Maass
 Special to The Washington Post

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Oct. 13—In their first meeting since the Olympic Games, North Korea and South Korea failed today to make progress in thawing their ties, but South Korea's president plans to mount an unusual diplomatic offensive at the United Nations next week to try to break the logjam with Pyongyang and improve relations with the East Bloc.

The five-man negotiating teams from each side, meeting in this border truce village, decided after more than two hours of fruitless talks to resume talks on Nov. 17.

Today's impasse over arranging a meeting of the two Korean legislatures dampens hopes for an immediate post-Olympic upturn in ties. But many experts believe change will come soon, citing the impact of the

Games, which highlighted South Korea's economic power, enhanced its political credibility and deepened North Korean isolation.

Important steps could be made at the United Nations, where South Korean President Roh Tae Woo will address the General Assembly on Tuesday, marking the first time that a South Korean head of state has spoken at the world organization. Intensifying the diplomatic activity, observers believe that the North Korean and South Korean foreign ministers will meet at the United Nations in New York.

Roh is also scheduled to meet with President Reagan in Washington next Thursday. The United States, which now has 43,000 American troops based in South Korea, has played a key role here since the peninsula was divided after World War II. North Korea, which does not have diplomatic relations with Washing-

ton, contends that the American troops are the prime obstacle to peaceful reunification.

The new diplomatic maneuvering between the Koreans is a result of the Olympics. South Korea says that its successful staging of the Games has given it the upper hand in contacts with the North. While North Korea's international isolation has increased, partly as a result of its Olympic boycott, South Korea has set up economic contacts with communist Pyongyang's key allies, the Soviet Union and China. Seoul has also exchanged diplomatic missions with Hungary—a move that drew expressions of outrage in the North.

In his speech to the United Nations, Roh is expected to stress his calls for an end to the politics of hostility between Seoul and Pyongyang, rivals since the peninsula was divided in 1945 and the 1950-53 Korean War left hundreds of thousands dead.

While at the United Nations, Roh and other South Korean officials are certain to press their drive for greater contacts with socialist countries that officially recognize Pyongyang but not Seoul.